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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6115**

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September 13, 2007

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The Honorable Zhou Wenzhong  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States  
2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Ambassador Zhou:

As Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over U.S. laws governing food and product safety, we are writing to express our regret and concern that your government has denied congressional staff access to factories which manufacture dangerous toys that have been sold to American families.

At the direction of Committee Chairman John Dingell, a staff delegation from the Committee visited China last month to make inquiries into food and toy safety. High on the staff's list of matters to investigate were toys manufactured in China that have been recalled in the United States for safety reasons. The Committee staff requested visas which would permit a scheduled visit either to the manufacturing facility of Early Light Industrial Co. Ltd., a contract manufacturer to Mattel, Inc., or to Hon Li Da Plastic Cement Products Co., Ltd., a subcontractor to Early Light responsible for the excessive levels of lead paint in toys recalled. The purpose of the visit was to examine the causes of dangerous product failures that resulted in recent recalls.

We are disappointed that your government decided not to provide the Committee staff with access to either of these factories. Your government had advance notice of the Committee staff visits to Beijing and Hong Kong. In part because toy manufacturers are concentrated in southern China, multiple-entry visas were requested so the staff delegation could re-enter China after they traveled to Hong Kong.

Instead of acceding to a reasonable request, however, the Chinese government granted visas that were limited to only a single entry, thus making a trip to either toy manufacturing facility impossible. Although the Committee staff, through the U.S. State Department, sought the Chinese government's assistance to amend the visas and permit

an additional entry into China while the delegation was in China, the requests were not approved in time.

We appreciate that your government has expressed an interest in responding to U.S. concerns about the safety of imported products from China. Still, confidence is built through transparency and openness. We would have expected your government to treat the Committee's staff request with the high priority it deserved, and to have facilitated a visit to either toy factory.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Ed Whitfield  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable John Dingell, Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations